PLEASE POST ON BULLITIN BOARD OR ENTRANCE

IN THE SUMMER OF 2005, FORT EUSTIS AND FORT STORY COMPLETED ITS TRI-ANNUAL LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLING. 6 SAMPLES OUT OF 30 AT EUSTIS AND 2 OUT OF 10 AT STORY EXCEEDED THE LEAD ACTION LEVEL WHICH TRIGGERS PUBLIC NOTIFICATION, EDUCATION AND ADDITIONAL ROUNDS OF SAMPLING. IN DECEMBER 2005, FORT EUSTIS AND FORT STORY RESAMPLED EACH OF THE ORIGINAL RESIDENTIAL SITES FOR LEAD AND COPPER AS REQUIRED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ALL TESTS RESULTS ARE WITHIN COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES AND BELOW THE ACTION LEVEL. ANOTHER ROUND OF SAMPLES WILL BE COLLECTED FROM THE ORIGINAL SITES WITHIN THE NEXT 6 MONTHS. PLEASE READ THE REQUIRED NOTICE BELOW FOR IMPORTANT HEALTH AND PROTECTION INFORMATION.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER INFORMATIONAL NOTICE

SOME TAPS IN THIS WATERWORKS HAVE ELEVATED LEAD LEVELS IN THE DRINKING WATER. LEAD CAN POSE A SIGNIFICANT RISK TO YOUR HEALTH. PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

INTRODUCTION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), **Fort Eustis and Fort Story** are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Although most homes have very low levels of lead in their drinking water, some homes in the community have recently returned test results showing lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). The second round of sampling in December 2005 showed that none of the residents exceed the lead and copper action level. Under Federal law we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water. Fort Eustis and Fort Story are consecutive waterworks systems and purchase water from Newport News Waterworks and the City of Norfolk Waterworks which already have corrosion control programs. A specific Fort Eustis and Fort Story corrosion control program will be implemented within the next four to five years if the next two rounds of confirmatory sampling indicate the need for such a program. This program includes corrosion control treatment, source water treatment, and public education. We are also required to replace each lead service line that we control if the line contributes lead concentrations of more than 15 ppb after we have completed the comprehensive treatment program. During our initial research of the plumbing records, we did not find notations of any lead service lines. Should we find lead service lines, we will take appropriate actions. The testing we have been performing would not indicate the condition of the water in the service lines as the samples have been “tap” samples. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation please give us a call at **(757) 878-4123 ext**. **306**. This brochure explains the simple steps you can take to protect you and your family by reducing your exposure to lead in the drinking water.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery, porcelain and pewter, and water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body. Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children and pregnant women. Amounts of lead that will not hurt adults can slow down normal mental and physical development of growing bodies. In addition, a child at play often comes into contact with sources of lead contamination, like dirt and dust that rarely affect an adult. It is important to wash children's hands and toys often, and to try to make sure they only put food in their mouths.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0%.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE IN THE HOME TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Despite our best efforts mentioned earlier to control water corrosivity and remove lead from the water supply, lead levels in some homes or buildings can be high.

If there is a concern about the lead content in your drinking water, then you should take the following precautions:

1. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer water resides in your home's plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder, usually about 15-30 seconds. If your house has a lead service line to the water main, you may have to flush the water for a longer time, perhaps one minute, before drinking. As mentioned earlier, our initial research of the plumbing records, we did not find notations of any lead service lines. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of your home's plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your family's health. It usually uses less than one or two gallons of water. To conserve water, fill a couple of bottles for drinking water after flushing the tap, and whenever possible use the first flush water to wash the dishes or water the plants. If you live in a high-rise building, letting the water flow before using it may not work to lessen your risk from lead. The plumbing systems have more and sometimes larger pipes than smaller buildings.

2. Try not to cook with, or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve more lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it on the stove or microwave.

3. Remove loose lead solder and debris from the plumbing materials installed in newly constructed homes, or homes in which the plumbing has recently been replaced, by removing the faucet strainers from all taps and running the water from 3 to 5 minutes. Thereafter, periodically remove the strainers and flush out any debris that has accumulated over time.

The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water.

You can consult a variety of sources for additional information. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead.

Fort Eustis Preventative Medicine at **(757) 878-0048/4531** or **Fort Eustis Public Works** at **(757) 878-4123 ext. 306** can provide you with information about lead and copper and your community's waterworks water quality.

Any beneficiaries wanting to get their children screened for lead should make an appointment with their Health Care Provider (HCP).

State and local government agencies that can be contacted include: Virginia Lead Safe (877) 688-7987, Office of Drinking Water (757)683-2000 and Newport News Health Department (757)594-7340.

The Medical Director of the local Health Department, and the Virginia Department of Health Division of Maternal and Child Health, Lead Programs Director at 1-800-523-4019 can provide you with information about the health effects of lead and how you can have your child's blood tested.